

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/614,276

Applicant(s)

THEIMER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Isaac M. Woo

2166

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to response filed on 09/06/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7, 10, 15 and 17-19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
JEAN W. CORRIELUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on September 06, 2005. Claims 2-7, 10, 15 and 17-19 are presented for examination.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ralph Gelling (Registration No. 24, 689) on November 22, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claims 1, 8-9, 11-14 and 16.

Rewrite claim 3, as follows:

3. Method according to Claim 18, characterized in that, the identified terms are announced and/or displayed to a user as a system response, starting with the term identified as being the most reliable, on the basis of the overall probability.

Rewrite claim 4, as follows:

4. Method according to Claim 18, characterized in that, for each identified term, the data records which are appropriate for the identified terms are looked for in a list of stored data records.

Rewrite claim 15, as follows:

15. Method according to Claim 18, characterized in that, an incorrectly alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a manner specific to a particular user, is assigned a lower confidence value as a function of input-specific error statistics.

Rewrite claim 18, as follows:

18. A method for inputting data into a system comprising the steps of:

in response to a voice input by a user, identifying one or more terms, which are as appropriate as possible for the voice input based on a confidence value;

determining from stored data records, data records matching the identified terms as well as probability values assigned to the matching data records, wherein each of said probability values is calculated for each stored data record as a ratio of the number of times the matching data record has been used during a certain period of time in the immediate recent past to the total number of times all the stored data records have been used during the certain period so as to describe the relative probability of the matching data record being used again;

calculating an overall probability from said confidence value of the identified term and the probability value of the matching data record;  
processing said identified terms according to said overall probability; and  
wherein the voice input is first of all subjected to speaker identification, and the subsequent voice recognition process is carried out, taking into account the result of the speaker identification.

Rewrite claim 19, as follows:

19. A method for inputting data into a system comprising the steps of:  
in response to an input by a user, made via an alphanumeric input device, the input being assigned a confidence value for reliable identification, and identifying one or more terms, the terms being as appropriate as possible for the input based on the confidence value;  
determining from stored data records, data records matching the identified terms as well as probability values assigned thereto, wherein each of said probability values is calculated for each stored data record as a ratio of the number of times the matching data record has been used during a certain period of time in the immediate recent past to the total number of times all the stored data records have been used during the certain period so as to describe the relative probability of the matching data record being used again;  
calculating an overall probability from said confidence value of the identified term and the probability value of the matching data record;

processing said identified terms according to said overall probability; and wherein an incorrect, alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a manner specific to a particular user, is automatically corrected, with the corrected term being assigned a confidence value which is lower than the confidence value for reliable identification.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 2-7, 10, 15 and 17-19 are allowed.

***Reason For Indicating Allowable Subject Matter***

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 18 and 19, identify distinct features, the computer-implemented method for inputting data onto a system. The closest prior art, Chou et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,489) discloses, in response to an input by a user, identifying one or more terms, which are as appropriate as possible for input based on a confidence value, calculating an overall probability from the confidence value of the identified term, processing the identified terms according to the overall probability, the voice input is first of all subjected to speaker identification, and the subsequent voice recognition process is carried out taking into account the result of the speaker identification. The prior art does not address the computer implemented method for determining data records matching

Art Unit: 2166

the identified terms as well as probability values assigned, in response to an input by a user, identifying one or more terms, which are as appropriate as possible for input based on a confidence value, calculating an overall probability from the confidence value of the identified term, processing the identified terms according to the overall probability, wherein each of the probability values is calculated for each stored data record as a ratio of the number of times data record has been used during a certain period of time in the immediate recent past to the total number of times all the data records have been used during this certain period so as to describe the relative probability of the data record being used again, calculating an overall probability from the confidence value of the identified term and the probability value of the matching data record. Chou et al fails to suggest the claimed limitation as mentioned above in combination with other limitations of the dependent and independent claims. The claims 2-7, 10, 15 and 17-19 are hereby allowed.


**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M. Woo whose telephone number is (571) 272-4043. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IMW  
November 28, 2005

  
JEAN M. CORRIELUS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER